

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 147

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga on the celebration of its 125th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, since its founding 125 years ago by the Methodist Episcopal Church, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga has played a vital role in Hamilton County, the State of Tennessee, and the region; and

WHEREAS, as the University earns a national reputation as an engaged metropolitan university, it has seen a growing student enrollment, from 118 students in September 1886, to a record 10,781 students in August 2010; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, after eighty-three years as a private institution, The University of Chattanooga joined with The University of Tennessee (UT), one of the oldest land-grant universities in the nation, to become The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) and later that year absorbed the programs of Chattanooga City College, formerly known as Zion College; and

WHEREAS, since merging with the UT system in 1969, UTC has conferred more than 49,500 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees and certifications in a number of disciplines; and

WHEREAS, the University has acknowledged the accomplishments of its distinguished alumni, including scientists Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt and Dr. Harold A. McAlister, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Robin Hood, energy expert and consumer advocate Alex Radin, Four Star General (Retired) B. B. Bell, artists Barry Moser and Hubert Shuptrine, businessmen Max Finley, Jr., and Clarence Harris, and actors Dorothy Hackett Ward and Dennis Haskins; and

WHEREAS, UTC faculty members hold a long-standing tradition of academic excellence, acquiring numerous external grants and prestigious honors; and

WHEREAS, UTC has a longstanding respect and appreciation for the contributions and achievements of all individuals and was the only school in the UT System to reach and to exceed the benchmarks set in the Geier desegregation settlement of a 1968 lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, in fall of 2001, the Lupton family bestowed to UTC, what was at the time the largest unrestricted cash gift to public education in Tennessee, a gift of \$25 million which established campus transformation, including the terminal degree in computational engineering, the first research-based Ph.D. program in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the University celebrates the long-standing traditions of men's and women's athletics, military science and Greek life; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest economic impact study conducted by the Scott L. Probasco, Jr., Chair of Free Enterprise it is estimated for each \$1 the state of Tennessee spent on the education of the 2007 entering class, it can expect to receive in return an added \$1.64 in sales tax, meaning on net, the State of Tennessee gains nearly \$29.7 million for each annual entering class at UTC; and

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is consistently ranked as one of the "Top Public Master's Universities in the South" by *U.S. News & World Report* and the UTC College of Business has been ranked among the top 100 in the nation by *BusinessWeek* magazine; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga on the celebration of 125 years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee, extending our gratitude for the significant impact the University continues to have on the citizens of Tennessee and wishing the faculty, staff, and students every success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.